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What Are the Facts on Cuba? By Lyle C. Wilson



SEN. GEORGE A. SMATHERS (D., Fla.) demands a house-cleaning and fumigation of the State Department but opposes a congressional investigation to illuminate the facts in the case.

That would be unfair to the stockholders in the department who can be identified in general as the tax paying citizens of the United States. Moreover, it could be unfair to all or to many of the officials of the State Department.

What Sen. Smathers proposed was that the department be swept clean from top to bottom of all officials who used bad judgment in making policies which determined U. S. relations with Fidel Castro's Cuba.

As the Truman Administration was accused of losing China, so the Eisenhower Administration now is accused of losing Cuba. Sen. Smathers should be more specific.

For example: Any well informed U. S. senator should know that U. S. intelligence agencies were aware during the three years preceding Castro's entry into Havana that the Beard was likely to be in business with the Russian communists.

Any U. S. senator who is not so informed, should inform himself. A senator could accomplish that by a couple of telephone calls, one to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, the other to Allen W. Dulles, boss of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The next step for the U. S. senator would be to learn

what the FBI, for example, did with the information it possessed on Castro's fellow traveler background. The inquiring senator would learn, your correspondent believes, that intelligence reports on Castro's communist sympathies had been submitted in detail to the White House, the State Department and to the Pentagon.

The senator with questions next should seek the answer to this one:

"Did policy-making top officials at the White House, State Department and the Pentagon have full access to all of this intelligence information and/or did they know anything at all about it?"

If the intelligence reports were submitted, but never reached President Eisenhower, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, and other top officials, who did finally receive them? And why were they diverted from the top men? If they were diverted, then by whom?

These are fair questions and they should be answered. The word here in Washington is that intelligence reports on Castro's communist orientation were submitted regularly for the information of Administration policy makers.

The word is not so clear on who actually received the reports and read them. There is some evidence, however, that they never reached the top where the decision was made upon Castro's capture of Havana to recognize the revolution immediately.

Stockholders in the government of the United States may not believe that such things can happen here. But they do happen and at great cost to the stockholders.